

HURRICANE IRENE STATUS UPDATE

Wednesday, 8/24/11 at 3:00 pm

VAMC STATUS: The VAMC is operating under normal operations. ***All clinics will be fully operational through the rest of the week (Wed. – Fri.).*** Surgeries and out of OR procedures have been cancelled for Friday, 8/26/11, but employees in those areas should report for work as scheduled. In the event of weather/flooding impact, VA staff and government vehicles can utilize the Bee Street garage after 12:00 pm on Friday, 8/26/11. All VA staff and government vehicles **MUST** be removed before 6:00 am on Monday, 8/29/11.

CBOC STATUS: CBOCs are operating under normal conditions and will remain open through Friday.

EMPLOYEE STATUS: ***All employees, including those who have procedures cancelled in their areas, should report to work for their scheduled tours of duty.*** Employees should review facility and service line Hurricane Emergency Preparedness plans and make plans to ensure the safety of their families. For home and family safety planning, go to www.scemd.org for 2011 Hurricane Preparedness Guide.

PATIENT STATUS: Patient appointments will be held as scheduled on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the VAMC and all CBOCs.

HURRICANE STATUS: At 2:00 pm the eye of Hurricane Irene was located near latitude 22.7N, longitude 74.3W. Irene is moving toward the northwest near 12 mph. A gradual turn toward the north-northwest and then north are expected Thursday and Thursday night. The core of Irene will move across the southeastern and central Bahamas today and over the northwestern Bahamas on Thursday. Maximum sustained winds are near 120 mph with higher gusts. Irene is a Category 3 hurricane and could become a Category 4 hurricane by Thursday. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 50 miles, and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 205 miles.

